(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

[redacted]

NRO STAFF

August 14, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Agriculture Department Study of Collection Resources

I attended a meeting in [redacted] office along with [redacted] and [redacted] from the Department of Agriculture, [redacted] from DIA and [redacted] from [redacted] office. The Agriculture people are initiating a rather detailed requirements identification and implementation study. They have TK tickets and have had extensive discussions with [redacted] of OMB. Agriculture Department wants DOD's help in providing them an insight into reconnaissance satellite capabilities in order that our assets potentially could be of use to the Agriculture Department to serve a variety of needs.

After some discussion, [redacted] stated that he felt it would be useful to the Defense Department if Agriculture did indeed have a strong requirement so that we could expand our photographic collection capability. I pointed out the similarity between what Agriculture was attempting to do and what the Interior Department desires along the same lines. I also pointed out some of the inherent problems associated with the current security structure and the mechanism for placing requirements upon the NRO for collection. I also suggested that the Agriculture team contact Mr. Inlow for advice. The Agriculture people said that they had worked with Dr. Steininger and his people in the past and were aware of the Reston facility and the old ARGO Panel. [redacted] agreed to provide some consulting support for the Agriculture task team.

I privately met with [redacted] for a moment after the session and reiterated to him the problems inherent in such

TCS-37583/74

an undertaking and suggested that the DCI organization would be the proper place for the Agriculture people to focus on. I told [redacted] of the meeting which General Graham chaired with respect to the ERTS cost benefit study and explained that a major national policy decision would be required with the Agriculture study if it proceeds in any depth. I expect that we will be called upon to provide some consulting services to the Department of Agriculture people.

HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director for
Plans and Policy

cc: Gen Kulpa
[redacted]
Mr. Inlow, COMIREX